

Title: A Brief History I

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A Brief History of the Lore Council and the Matriarchs – The Plans of Tarathas

And so it came to pass
that the great Lore
Council of the Meer was
the governing body of the
lands of Ishpuria, our
home. It was during this
time that a group came
to power who concealed
their intentions and hid
them from our populace
and our Matriarchs, whom
were to oversee the Lore
Council's decisions and
actions. One Meer, an
Elder who went by the
name of Tarathas of
Ishpur, was a particularly
ambitious lot and had
taken his time in
consolidating a power base
for himself and in finding
a specific relic of our
world, the so called
Crystal Lattice of Anjur.
With this artifact he
then divined the locations
of the nexus's of power
within Ishpuria and sought
to control them, utilizing
forbidden and sealed magic
that should never have
been available to any but
the Matriarchs. Despite
the Matriarchs wisdom, it
is often seen that they
had grown inactive and
passive at the time,
which is speculated as to
the reason that none of
this was found out until
a chance encounter with
a Jukan scouting team
occurred.

An incursion force of Jukans had been devastated in a battle, and the few survivors were severely wounded. The Jukans prepared to fight the scout they had encountered but the scout, a low ranking soldier by the name of Shedana, challenged the ranking Jukan officer, Sikuth, to a White Duel. Shedana says that the terms of the White Duel were that if the Jukans were to win, they would be taken to their clan with no questions asked and any mortal wounds treated, while if Shedana were to win they would offer their information and go along quietly as prisoners. Sikuth faced off against Shedana, and despite Sikuth's wounds purportedly fought Shedana to a near standstill before the scout managed to defeat the Jukan. Sikuth then related to Shedana that they had been passing through Meer lands to attempt to retrieve an Adept of the Way who had been captured some weeks before when they stumbled upon a group of Ishpurian Mages at a glade, whose leader was none other than Councilman Tarathas of Ishpur. After a fierce battle in which the Jukans slew many of Tarathas' companions, Tarathas managed to drive them off into retreat. Sikuth said that as they fled they were aware of a huge release of magical power from the location of the glade that Tarathas had driven them away from.

It is at this point that speculation rises once more, as it's difficult to tell whether this was the second or the first of the three nexus points that Tarathas had secured, and if the answer could be found a great deal of blame could be laid to rest. The majority of scholars believe that this was his first nexus captured, and had the Matriarchs come to the decision to act more swiftly that they could have stopped him at the forgotten swamps.

Unfortunately it's difficult to tell if this is a legitimate accusation due to insufficient evidence. What we do know is that with his ploy discovered, the Matriarchs immediately had the other members of the Lore Council held in custody while they sent their agents to attempt to track down Tarathas. The agents of the Matriarchs were baffled and left clutching straws by their cunning adversary, however, and by the time they had arrived at the nexus point of the glade and the nexus point of the forgotten swamps, both had already been corrupted and drained of their powers. The final nexus point was unknown to the Matriarchs but they were able to follow Tarathas' own investigative techniques to realize that it lay beneath the great abandoned city of Anjur. Using the power at their command, the Matriarchs traveled to the city with a large force of mages, scouts, and hunters to

deal with whatever forces that Tarathas could muster. Now was the time to take Tarathas to task for what he had planned, and prevent catastrophe.